AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A digital distribution method for transmitting digital contents representing an entity of a product over a network and, subsequently, delivering the product, said digital distribution method comprising the steps of:

in response to receiving an order for the product, incorporating the digital contents into a control program controlling the digital contents and transmitting the control program over the network;

sending ~~delivering~~ the product so that the product arrives after a predetermined period has elapsed after the transmission; and

disabling the digital contents by said control program after a contents availability period has elapsed, said contents availability period being set to a time longer than the predetermined period.

2. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 1 wherein said control program is transmitted with the digital contents incorporated in such a way that only the control program may process the digital contents and, when the transmission of said control program is completed, starts a time measuring operation of the contents availability period.

3. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 1 wherein, when the contents availability period expires, said control program erases the digital contents or erases itself in conjunction with the digital contents.

4. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 1 wherein the product includes various books and documents, music CDs, and video DVDs.

5. (Currently amended) A digital distribution method for transmitting digital contents representing an entity of a product over a network and, subsequently, delivering the product, said digital distribution method comprising the steps of:

providing, by a product vendor, a plurality of ~~product items~~ products for browsing over the network;

selecting, by a product buyer, a desired ~~item~~ product from a plurality of browsed ~~items~~ products, specifying a desired delivery period for a delivery of the product ~~item~~, and placing an order for the product over the network;

incorporating, by the vendor, the digital contents into a control program controlling the digital contents and transmitting the control program to the buyer over the network in response to the order, said digital contents representing the entity of the product ~~item selected~~ ordered by the buyer;

delivering the product from the vendor to the buyer when the desired delivery period has elapsed from a time the order is placed; and

disabling, by said control program, the digital contents when a contents availability period has elapsed, said contents availability period being set in said control program and set to a time longer than the desired delivery period.

6. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 5 wherein said control program is transmitted with the digital contents incorporated in such a way that only the control program may process the digital contents and, when the transmission of said control program is completed, starts a time measuring operation of the contents availability period.

7. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 5 wherein, when the contents availability period expires, said control program erases the digital contents or erases itself in conjunction with the digital contents.

8. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 5 wherein the product includes various books and documents, music CDs, and video DVDs.

9. (Currently amended) A digital distribution method for transmitting digital contents representing an entity of a product over a network and, subsequently, delivering the product, said digital distribution method comprising the steps of:

providing, by a product vendor, a plurality of ~~product items~~ products for browsing over the network;

selecting, by a product buyer, a desired ~~item~~ product from a plurality of browsed ~~items~~ products, specifying a shipping charge for a delivery of the product ~~item~~, and placing an order for the product over the network;

incorporating, by the vendor, the digital contents into a control program controlling the digital contents and transmitting the control program to the buyer over the network in response to the order, said digital contents representing the entity of the product ~~item selected~~ ordered by the buyer;

delivering the product from the vendor to the buyer when a required delivery period has elapsed from a time the order is placed, said required delivery period being determined based on said shipping charge; and

disabling, by said control program, the digital contents when a contents availability period has elapsed, said contents availability period being set in said control program and set to a time longer than the required delivery period.

10. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 9 wherein said control program is transmitted with the digital contents incorporated in such a way that only the control program may process the digital contents and, when the transmission of said control program is completed, starts a time measuring operation of the contents availability period.

11. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 9 wherein, when the contents availability period expires, said control program erases the digital contents or erases itself in conjunction with the digital contents.

12. (Original) The digital distribution method according to claim 9 wherein the product includes various books and documents, music CDs, and video DVDs.

13. (Currently amended) A digital distribution system comprising a network, a server connected to the network and installed in a product vendor side, and a client computer connected to the network and installed in a product buyer side,

wherein said server comprises:

web pages comprising an item browsing page allowing a product buyer to browse a plurality of ~~product items~~ products over the network for selecting a desired ~~item~~ product therefrom and a product order page allowing the product buyer to specify, over the network, a desired delivery period or a shipping charge for a delivery of the selected product ~~item~~ and allowing the product buyer to place an order for the selected product;

digital contents saving means for saving therein digital contents representing an entity of each product item;

control program saving means for saving therein a control program which is transmitted with a contents availability period set and the digital contents incorporated at digital contents transmission time, the digital contents representing an entity of the selected product, wherein the control program disables the digital contents when the contents availability period expires after the transmission, said contents availability period being longer than the desired delivery period or than a required delivery period determined based on the shipping charge;

transmission control means for controlling the transmission of the digital contents, said transmission control means calling the control program from said control program saving means in response to ~~an~~ the order from the buyer and incorporating the digital contents, which is read from said digital contents saving means, into said control program for transmission to the buyer over said network; and

delivery control means for controlling the delivery of the product, said delivery control means delivering the product from the vendor to the buyer when the desired delivery period or the required delivery period has elapsed from the transmission.

14. (Currently amended) A digital distribution system comprising a network, a server connected to the network and installed in a product vendor side, and a client computer connected to the network and installed in a product buyer side,

wherein said client computer comprises:

a browser allowing web pages prepared in said server to be browsed over the network;

wherein the web pages displayed on a screen of said client computer by said browser comprises:

an item browsing page allowing a product buyer to browse a plurality of ~~product items~~ products and prompting the product buyer to select a desired ~~items~~ product therefrom; and

a product order page allowing the product buyer to specify a desired delivery period or a shipping charge for a delivery of the selected product ~~item~~ and prompting the product buyer to place an order,

wherein digital contents are incorporated into a control program controlling the digital contents in response to the order, transmitted from the vendor to the buyer over the network, and displayed on the screen of said client computer by said browser, said digital contents representing an entity of the product ~~item selected~~ ordered by the buyer, and

wherein, after the desired delivery period or a required delivery period determined based on the shipping charge has elapsed since the transmission and the product is delivered from the vendor to the buyer, said control program stops displaying said digital contents on the screen of the client computer when the contents availability period set in said control program has elapsed.

15. (Currently amended) A digital distribution system comprising a network, a server connected to the network and installed in a product vendor side, and a client computer connected to the network and installed in a product buyer side,

wherein said server comprises:

web pages comprising an item browsing page allowing a product buyer to browse a plurality of ~~product items~~ products over the network for selecting a desired ~~item~~ product therefrom and a product order page allowing the product buyer to specify, over the network, a desired delivery period or a shipping charge for a delivery of the selected product , and allowing the product buyer to place an order for the selected product ~~item~~;

digital contents saving means for saving therein digital contents representing an entity of each product ~~item~~;

control program saving means for saving therein a control program which is transmitted with a contents availability period set and the digital contents incorporated at digital contents transmission time, the digital contents representing an entity of the selected product, wherein the control program disables the digital contents when the contents availability period expires after the transmission, said contents availability period being longer than the desired delivery period or than a required delivery period determined based on the shipping charge;

transmission control means for controlling the transmission of the digital contents, said transmission control means calling the control program from said control program saving means in response to ~~an~~ the order from the buyer and incorporating the digital contents, which is read from said digital contents saving means, into said control program for transmission to the buyer over said network; and

delivery control means for controlling the delivery of the product, said delivery control means delivering the product from the vendor to the buyer when the desired delivery period or the required delivery period has elapsed from the transmission,

wherein said client computer comprises:

a browser allowing the web pages to be browsed on a screen over the network;

wherein the digital contents are incorporated into said control program in response to the order, transmitted from the vendor to the buyer over the network, and displayed on the screen of said client computer by said browser, said digital contents representing the entity of the ~~selected~~ product ~~item selected~~ ordered by the buyer, and

wherein, after the desired delivery period or the required delivery period has elapsed from the transmission and the product is delivered from the vendor to the buyer, said control program stops displaying said digital contents on the screen of the client computer when the contents availability period set in said control program has elapsed.

16. (Original) The digital distribution system according to claim 14 wherein, when the desired delivery period has elapsed after the transmission, said control program erases the digital contents or erases itself in conjunction with the digital contents to prevent the digital contents from being displayed on the screen of the client computer.

17. (Original) The digital distribution system according to claim 5 wherein, when the desired delivery period has elapsed after the transmission, said control program erases the digital contents or erases itself in conjunction with the digital contents to prevent the digital contents from being displayed on the screen of the client computer.

18. (Currently amended) A digital contents transmission method for transmitting digital contents representing an entity of a product over a network, said digital transmission method comprising the steps of:

providing, by a product vendor, a plurality of ~~product items~~ products for browsing over the network;

selecting, by a product buyer, a desired ~~item~~ product from a plurality of browsed ~~items~~ products, specifying a desired contents availability period for the product item, and placing an order for the selected product over the network;

incorporating, by the vendor, the digital contents into a control program controlling the digital contents and transmitting the control program to the buyer over the network in response to the order, said digital contents representing the entity of the product ~~item selected~~ ordered by said buyer; and

disabling, by said control program, the digital contents when the contents availability period has elapsed, said contents availability period being set in said control program.